2: Kroeber E-5 (1930) 1931 NU31 Seri NU31

in endearment when drunk. This may apply also to other siblings-in-law. 607

Younger siblings (? and other relatives) may say nothing obscene before the older, out of respect for them; but the older talk freely before the younger. This applies to both men and women. Otherwise there seems to be little prudery; the informant recited the names of the private parts before his wife and children, and she indifferently repeated them after him in confirmation. 593 834

There is no teknonymy. 551

The dead are buried. Cremation of the body seemed unknown to the informant. All property of the dead person is burned or destroyed. His balsa was burned; modern boats are not, because they "belong to the government," which furnishes the lumber. The house is abandoned and a new one built a short distance away. The name of the dead is not spoken. 76 [422]

Kinship

The Seri kinship system is distinguished by three general features: the large number of terms; the strong tendency to terms reciprocal in meaning; and the distinction made between older and younger siblings of nearer relatives if they are of the same sex. All of these are characteristic Yuman traits. 601

The number of terms obtained is 50; which number might have been increased if step-relatives, great-grandparents, great-uncle-aunts, siblings of siblings-in-law, spouses of uncles-aunts, and spouses had been inquired for. However, the informant seemed to feel that the list was exhausted with the set obtained; before that, he pursued the subject of his own accord. Fifty is an unusually large number of kinship names in any language; the more so, since there are no cousin terms. The 12 siblings-in-law terms—a quite extraordinary number—swell the total.

Conceptually reciprocal terms dominate the system except in the sibling class. The informant soon realized this principle. Some of the reciprocals are derivatives; others are not; self-reciprocals are lacking. This last fact helps increase the size of the system.

The distinction between older and younger siblings of the same (but not of the opposite) sex as nearer relatives is consistently carried out for uncles-aunts and spouses' siblings (or siblings' spouses).

ẽt	father	reciprocals ista'k (man's son), ẽq man's daughter)	
e't·a	mother	rec. tq/t	(woman's child)
e'p·ãc	father's father	rec. ik-e'pãc	(man's son's child)
emdc	father's mother	rec. eka'sak	(woman's son's chd.)
ẽ'de	mother's father	rec. iqẽci	(man's dtr.'s child)
ẽkt	mother's mother	rec. tqaq	(woman's dtr.'s chd.)